Handbook of Enzyme Electrophoresis in Human Genetics. By H. HARRIS and D. A. HOPKINSON. Amsterdam: North-Holland Publishing Company, 1976. $55.96.

During the past several years, Drs. Harris and Hopkinson, with their colleagues at the Galton Laboratory in London, have been examining extracts of human cells for the electrophoretic patterns of various enzymes. Although their primary goal was to detect phenotypic variation and to estimate the frequency of human genetic polymorphism, they have also been interested in developing new histochemical staining technics, including those for nonpolymorphic enzymes. Once developed, these technics for examining isozymes can be used for many different purposes, such as determining tissue specificity, assessing subunit structure, comparing human and animal phenotypes and assigning gene loci to specific chromosomes, both by family studies and by cell-cell hybridization.

The rapid expansion and application of these techniques in London and elsewhere created the need for a concise compilation of data useful as both a handy reference and a practical laboratory guide. This handbook is admirably suited to meet that need. The first three chapters briefly discuss the principles of electrophoresis, interpretation of isozyme patterns, and the major kinds of staining technics now available. The bulk of the book contains concise discussions of 71 different enzymes, including such pertinent information as electrophoretic conditions, rationale and technique of staining, subunit structure, tissue distribution of isozymes, variant alleles, geographic distribution and chromosome assignment. Helpful photographs of stained gels have been provided in nearly all instances. Still another useful attribute of this manual is its looseleaf format, permitting easy addition of supplements as they are written.

No one who has any serious interest in the subject of human tissue isozymes should be without this manual. It is an absolute *sine qua non* in all laboratories where genetic markers are being studied.

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Is Alcoholism Hereditary? By D. GOODWIN. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. Pp. 171. $7.95.

This short book is directed to the lay reader. The style is deliberately journalistic, with some glib parenthetical asides in the early chapters. The book will be widely read and contains much information of use to physicians and genetic counselors whose patients increasingly may ask about the nature *and* nurture of alcoholism in themselves or their relatives. Approximately 70% of American adults drink alcoholic beverages, and an estimated one in 12 merits a diagnosis of alcoholism, based upon social, psychological, and medical complications. First-degree relatives of alcoholics have a fivefold higher risk for alcoholism (25% for males; 5%–8% for females) than do relatives of controls. Goodwin makes appropriate analogies to diabetes mellitus for the high prevalence, familial occurrence, uncertain and likely heterogeneous genetic and biochemical mechanisms, interaction of genetics and diet, usefulness of empirical therapy, and psychosocial complications of chronically relapsing course.

The strongest sections of this book are Chapters 5 and 8. Chapter 5 presents the Danish Adoptee Study of alcoholism in which Goodwin was a principal investigator, employing the same base of 5,500 nonfamily adoption cases in Copenhagen from 1924 to 1947 that Kety, Rosenthal, Schulsinger, and Wender have analyzed for predisposition to schizophrenia. The alcoholism study rests upon 55 male adoptees who had one biological parent with a hospitalization for alcoholism